

V.—ELEPHANTS LYING DOWN.

The question as to whether an African elephant lies down or not has now I think been settled. That it does so, and not infrequently, has been confirmed by Mr. Roy Home and others in recent years.

The Indian elephant lies down more commonly than is supposed. While out in the Palar Valley, North Coimbatore, with Mr. Salim Ali (March 1940) we saw a tusker lying down flat on his side under a large Tamarind tree. The elephant remained in this position for some time, gently curling and uncurling its trunk or covering itself with dust and tamarind mulch from the ground beside it, while another and larger tusker stood on the other side of the tree. This was one of a number of instances to my knowledge.

HONNAMETTI ESTATE,
ATTIKAN, MYSORE, P.O.,
S. INDIA.

R. C. MORRIS,
Captain.

June 16, 1941.

VI.—BIRD NOTES FROM BALTISTAN.

(*With a map.*)

The following notes were made during a five-week trip through Baltistan after Ibex, from July 15th to August 20th. The notes apply chiefly to the Deosai Plains and a stretch of about 80 miles of the Indus valley. Here the Indus runs at about 8,000 ft. elevation, flanked by mountains running up to 16,000 ft. or more. The average elevation of the Deosai Plain is about 13,000 ft., surrounded on three sides by higher mountains.

I took with me the 2nd edition of the 'Fauna' and a collector's gun, and only those birds whose identity was definitely established are included.

1. **Corvus corax tibetanus** (Hodgs.). Himalayan Raven. Only noted once, when a pair was seen above Gol in the Indus valley at about 14,000 ft.

2. **Corvus coronoides intermedius** (Adams). Himalayan Jungle-Crow. Occurs sparingly on the Deosai Plain and in the villages of the Indus valley up to 12,000 ft.

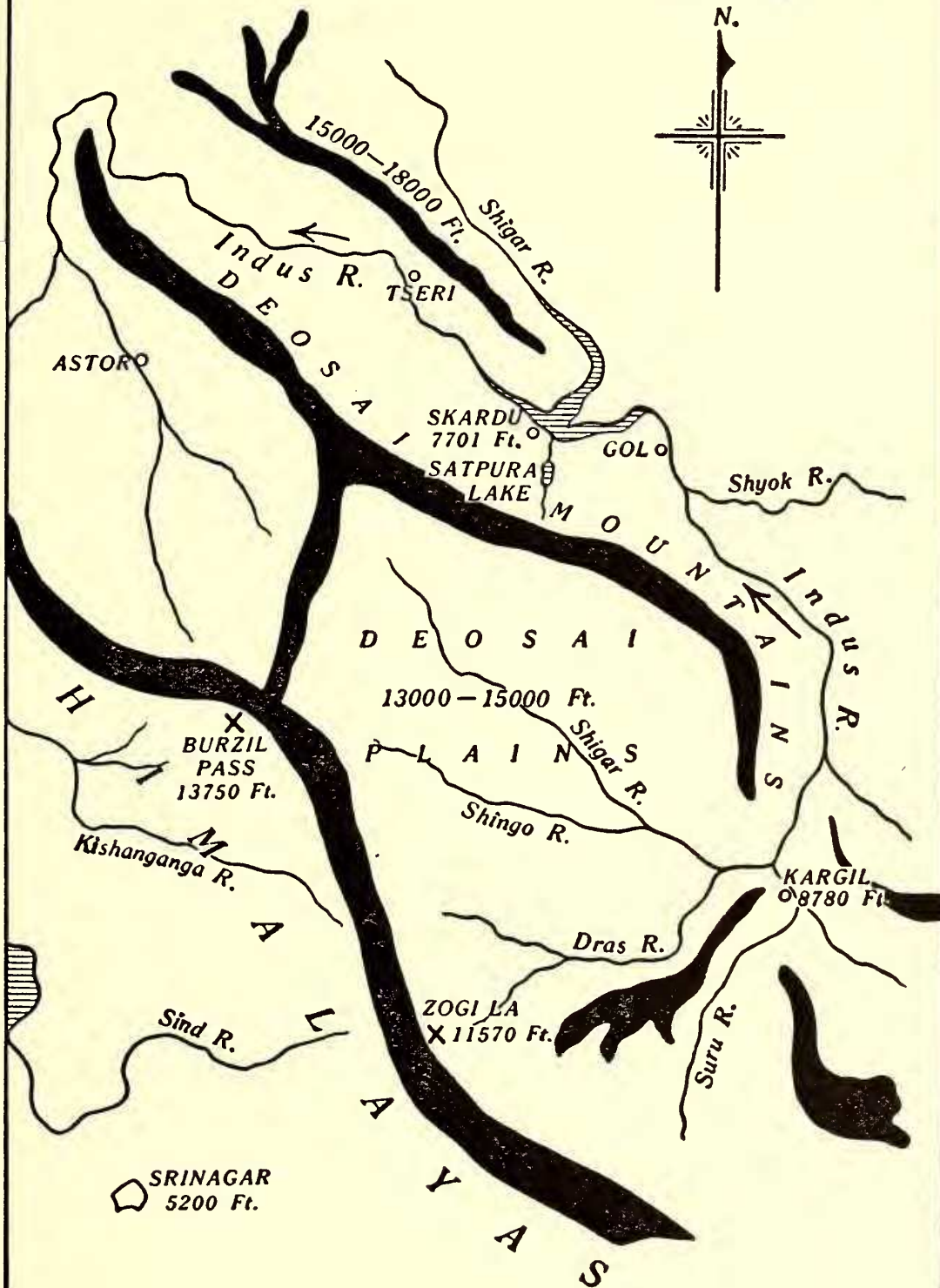
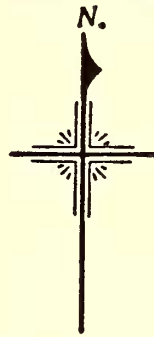
3. **Corvus corone orientalis** (Eversm.). Eastern Carrion Crow. Rare. One of a pair was obtained near Gol in the Indus valley at 8,500 ft.

4. **Pica pica bactriana** Borop. Kashmir Magpie. A common and familiar bird in all the Indus villages.

5. **Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax** (Linn.). Red-billed Chough.

SKETCH MAP OF BALTISTAN

SCALE 1" = 16 MILES



6. **Pyrrhocorax graculus** (Linn.). Yellow-billed Chough.

Both species are very common throughout the higher hills on both sides of the Indus, up to 16,000 ft. at least, descending to 8,000 ft. in the neighbourhood of villages. Mostly, these two species were found in company, the 'Yellow-billed' predominating round the villages, while at the higher elevations the 'Red-billed' was commoner and found in great numbers. The curious mewing note of the half-fledged young was one of the most persistent noises at my camp in the Tseri nullah at 15,000 ft.

7. **Parus major kaschmiriensis** Hartert. Kashmir Grey-Tit. Occurs sparingly in the Indus valley villages.

8. **Lophophanes rufonuchalis rufonuchalis** (Blyth). Simla Black-Tit. One specimen obtained above Tseri village at 10,000 ft. The only one seen.

9. **Trochalopteryx lineatum gilgit** (Hartert). Gilgit Streaked Laughing-Thrush. Occurs fairly commonly in the Indus valley villages up to 9,000 ft.

10. **Tichodroma muraria** (Linn.). Wall Creeper. Seen daily at my highest camp above Tseri at well over 15,000 ft.

11. **Oenanthe picata** (Blyth). Pied Chat. One of the commonest birds of Baltistan occurring throughout the whole length of the Indus valley visited, haunting alike the outskirts of villages and the boulder-strewn barren stretches in between. Family parties with newly-fledged young were seen everywhere. On leaving the Indus this bird is seen less commonly up to the mouth of the Suru river below Kargil and then disappears altogether.

12. **Oenanthe leucomela leucomela** (Pall). Noted and obtained from about 10 miles east of Skardu, where the Indus broadens out, to as far as Tseri Village, increasing in numbers as one progressed westwards.

13. **Phoenicurus frontalis** Vigors. Blue-fronted Redstart. Only one specimen was seen—above Tseri at 14,000 ft.

14. **Phoenicurus ochrurus phoenicuroides** (Moore). Kashmir Redstart. Occurs sparingly on the Deosai Plain, and more commonly on the higher slopes of the Indus valley above 14,000 ft.

15. **Chaimarrhornis leucocephala** (Vigore). White-capped Redstart. Only one bird was seen—above Gol at 9,000 ft.

16. **Cyanosylvia cyanecula abbotti** (Richmond). Eastern White-spotted Blue-throat. Occurs sparingly in the higher cultivated land above 10,000 ft.

17. **Monticola solitaria pandoo** (Sykes). Indian Blue Rock-Thrush. Occurs fairly commonly throughout the Indus valley, both in the most barren country and on the outskirts of villages.

18. **Myophonus temminckii temminckii** (Vigors). Himalayan Whistling Thrush. Occurs in small numbers in the Indus valley, wherever there is cultivation.

19. **Phylloscopus affinis**. Tickell's Willow-Warbler.

20. **Phylloscopus collybitus sindhianus**. Sind Chiff Chaff.

These two species were only once definitely identified when descending from the Deosai Mountains into the Indus valley.

21. **Phylloscopus griseolus** Blyth. Olivaceous Tree-Warbler. A family party was seen above Tseri at 10,000 ft. searching rocks and boulders for food, almost like wall-creepers.

22. **Oriolus oriolus kundoo** (Sykes). Indian Oriole. Occurs commonly in all the Indus villages.

23. **Pyrhospiza punicea humii** (Sharpe). Western Red-breasted Rosefinch. Seen on several occasions above 14,000 ft. A family party haunted my highest camp above Tseri. They have a very metallic sparrow-like chirp uttered on the wing.

24. **Carpodacus erythrinus roseatus** (Hodgs.). Hodgson's Rosefinch. Occurs commonly in the higher cultivated areas of the Indus valley from Skardu eastwards.

25. **Metaponia pusilla** (Pall). Gold-fronted Finch. A common bird in the larger Indus villages.

26. **Passer domesticus parkini** Whistler. Kashmir House Sparrow. Common at Skardu and neighbouring villages. Much rarer to the East, and not seen at all at Tseri on the West.

27. **Fringilauda nemoricola altaica** (Eversm.). Stolickza's Mountain Finch. Common on the Deosai Plain. Usually seen in small flocks.

28. **Emberiza cia stracheyi** (Moore). Eastern Meadow Bunting. Found in all the Indus villages. Commoner on the west than the east. Not found on the Deosai Plain.

29. **Delichon urbica urbica** (Linn). House-Martin. All specimens shot were of this sub-species. Frequents the more precipitous villages of the Indus.

30. **Ptyonoprogne rupestris** Scop. Crag-Martin. A common bird observed daily throughout the Indus valley at all elevations up to 10,000 ft.

31. **Motacilla alba personata** (Gould). Masked Wagtail. Occurs sparingly in the Indus valley.

32. **Motacilla alba hodgsoni**. Hodgson's Pied Wagtail. Common throughout the Indus valley.

33. **Motacilla cinerea caspica** (Gmelin). Eastern Grey Wagtail. Fairly common in the cultivated areas of the Indus valley.
34. **Motacilla citreola calcarata** (Hodgs.). Hodgson's Yellow-headed Wagtail. Very common on the Deosai Plain. A nest with four fresh eggs was found on July 17th. Not seen elsewhere in Baltistan.
35. **Anthus hodgsoni hodgsoni** (Richmond). Indian Tree-Pipit. Found breeding in the Deosai Mountains at 15,000 ft.
36. **Anthus roseatus** Blyth. Hodgson's Pipit. A nest with three young ones about a week old found on the Deosai Mountains at 14,000 ft.
37. **Otocorys alpestris deosai** Meinertz. Deosai Horned Lark. By far the commonest bird on the Deosai Plain. The place literally swarmed with them, and newly-fledged young were seen everywhere and were very tame, some being caught by hand.
38. **Alauda gulgula lahmarum**. Ladak Skylark. Occurs sparingly on the Deosai Plain on the higher cultivated and grazing grounds east of Skardu.
39. **Picus squamatus squamatus** Vigors. Scaly-bellied Woodpecker. Found sparingly in most of the Indus villages.
40. **Upupa epops epops** Linn. European Hoopoe. Occurs in all the Indus villages. Common round Skardu.
41. **Micropus apus pekinensis** (Swink.). Eastern Swift. A common bird in Baltistan. Seen daily both on the Deosai Plain and the Indus valley up to 15,000 ft. at least.
42. **Cuculus canorus telephonus** Heine. Asiatic Cuckoo. Heard calling daily on the Deosai Plain, usually from the tops of the most desolate hills. A young bird was seen at Skardu in the willows on the banks of the Indus.
43. **Gyps himalayensis** Hume. Himalayan Griffon. Found throughout Baltistan up to at least 16,000 ft.
44. **Haliaëtus leucoryphus** (Pall.). Pallas's Fishing Eagle. One bird was seen sailing high over the Deosai Plain, and two birds were seen on the Indus.
45. **Milvus migrans lineatus** (Gray). Black-eared Kite. Occurs sparingly around Skardu and neighbouring villages.
46. **Cerchneis tinnunculus** (sub-sp. *tinnunculus*?). A kestrel, probably the European Kestrel occurs throughout Baltistan. No specimens were obtained.
47. **Accipiter nisus melanoschistus**. Indian Sparrow Hawk. Seen on the Deosai Plain.